United Nations E/RES/2018/20

Economic and Social Council

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2018 session
Agenda item 16

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 24 July 2018

[*on a proposal considered in plenary meeting (E/2018/L.19)*]

2018/20. Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 72/86 of 7 December 2017 and 72/240 of 20 December 2017,

Recalling also its resolution 2017/30 of 25 July 2017,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and recalling relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 252 (1968) of 21 May 1968, 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980, 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981 and 2334 (2016) of 23 December 2016,

Recalling the resolutions of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, including resolutions ES-10/13 of 21 October 2003, ES-10/14 of 8 December 2003, ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Taking note of the report of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan, as transmitted by the Secretary-General,[1]

Reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[2] to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

[1] A/73/87-E/2018/69.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

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Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[3] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[3] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[4] and affirming that these human rights instruments are applicable and must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan,

Noting with concern that more than 70 years have passed since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947 and 51 years since the occupation of Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, in 1967,

Taking note, in this regard, of Palestine's accession to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions as well as other international treaties,

Taking note also of General Assembly resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012,

Stressing the urgency of achieving without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement on all tracks on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978, 1397 (2002) of 12 March 2002, 1515 (2003) of 19 November 2003, 1544 (2004) of 19 May 2004, 1850 (2008) of 16 December 2008 and 2334 (2016), the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative[5] and the Quartet road map,[6] as well as compliance with the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people,

Reaffirming the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources, and expressing concern in that regard about the exploitation, endangerment and depletion of natural resources by Israel, the occupying Power, and Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, particularly as a result of settlement activities, which are illegal under international law and which, deplorably, continued during the reporting period,

Convinced that the Israeli occupation has gravely impeded the efforts to achieve environmentally sustainable development and a sound economic environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and expressing grave concern about the consequent deterioration of economic and living conditions,

Expressing alarm, in this regard, about the extremely high levels of unemployment in the Gaza Strip in particular, which remains at over 40 per cent, with youth unemployment reaching 60 per cent, exacerbated by the prolonged Israeli closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, and the continuing negative repercussions of the military operations in the Gaza Strip on economic and social infrastructure and living conditions,

Commending, despite the many constraints, including the obstacles imposed by the ongoing Israeli occupation, the efforts of the Palestinian Government to improve the economic and social situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially in the areas of governance, the rule of law and human rights, livelihoods and productive sectors, education and culture, health, social protection, infrastructure and water,

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[3] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[5] A/56/1026-S/2002/932, annex II, resolution 14/221.

[6] S/2003/529, annex.

Stressing the importance of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, which aims, inter alia, at enhancing development support and assistance to the Palestinian people and strengthening institutional capacity in line with Palestinian national priorities,

Gravely concerned about the accelerated construction of settlements and implementation of other related measures by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in and around occupied East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan, in violation of international humanitarian law and relevant United Nations resolutions, and stressing that such illegal measures are main sources of other Israeli violations and discriminatory policies,

Encouraging all States and international organizations to continue to actively pursue policies to ensure respect for their obligations under international law with regard to all illegal Israeli practices and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly Israeli settlements,

Taking note of the report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,[7]

Expressing deep concern about the rising incidence of violence, harassment, provocation, vandalism and incitement in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in particular by illegal armed Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians, including children, and their properties, including homes, historic and religious sites and agricultural lands, and calling for accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated in this regard,

Gravely concerned by the serious repercussions on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people caused by Israel's construction of the wall and its associated regime inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and the resulting violation of their economic and social rights, including the rights to work, to health, to education, to property, to an adequate standard of living and to freedom of access and movement,

Recalling, in that regard, the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,[8] and General Assembly resolution ES-10/15, and stressing the need to comply with the obligations mentioned therein,

Deploring all loss of innocent civilian life and injury to scores of civilians, and calling upon all parties to fully respect international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, including for the protection of civilian life, as well as for the promotion of human security, the de-escalation of the situation, the exercise of restraint, including from provocative actions and rhetoric, and the establishment of a stable environment conducive to the pursuit of peace,

Expressing grave concern at the extensive destruction by Israel, the occupying Power, of properties, including the increased demolition of homes, economic institutions, historical landmarks, agricultural lands and orchards, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in particular in connection with its construction of settlements and the wall and confiscation of land, contrary to international law, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem,

[7] A/HRC/22/63.

[8] See A/ES-10/273 and A/ES-10/273/Corr.1.

Expressing grave concern also over the continuing forced displacement and dispossession of Palestinian civilians, including the Bedouin community, due to the continuing and intensifying policy of home demolitions, evictions and revocation of residency rights in and around occupied East Jerusalem, as well as measures to further isolate the city from its natural Palestinian environs, which have seriously exacerbated the already critical socioeconomic situation being faced by the Palestinian population,

Expressing grave concern further about ongoing Israeli military operations and policies of closures and severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, the imposition of crossing closures, checkpoints and a permit regime throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the consequent negative impact on the socioeconomic situation of the Palestinian people, in particular the Palestine refugee population, which remains that of a humanitarian crisis,

Expressing grave concern, in particular, over the continuing crisis in the Gaza Strip as a result of the prolonged Israeli closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, stressing that the situation is unsustainable, as reflected in numerous reports, including the report of 26 August 2016 of the United Nations country team, entitled "Gaza: two years after", and calling in that regard for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1860 (2009) of 8 January 2009 with a view to ensuring the full opening of the border crossings for the sustained and regular movement of persons and goods, including humanitarian aid, commercial flows and construction materials, and emphasizing the need for security for all civilian populations,

Deploring the conflict in and around the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014 and the civilian casualties caused, including the killing of and injury to thousands of Palestinian civilians, including children, women and the elderly, as well as the widespread destruction of or damage to thousands of homes and vital civilian infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, water, sanitation and electricity networks, economic, industrial and agricultural properties, public institutions, religious sites and United Nations schools and facilities, as well as the internal displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians, and any violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, in this regard,

Gravely concerned about the consequent prolonged and extensive negative impact of the military operations of July and August 2014, as well as the military operations between December 2008 and January 2009 and of November 2012, on economic conditions, the provision of social services and the social, humanitarian and physical living conditions of the Palestinian civilian population, including the Palestine refugee population,

Recalling, in that regard, the relevant United Nations reports, including those of the Economic and Social Council, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Human Rights Council,

Expressing deep concern about the short- and long-term detrimental impact of such widespread destruction and the hampering of the reconstruction process, by Israel, the occupying Power, on the socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions of the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, where the humanitarian crisis continues to deepen, and calling in that regard for the immediate acceleration and fulfilment of the reconstruction process in the Gaza Strip with the assistance of the donor countries, including the disbursement of funds pledged at the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, held on 12 October 2014,

Gravely concerned about various reports of the United Nations and specialized agencies regarding the substantial aid dependency caused by prolonged border closures, inordinate rates of unemployment, widespread poverty and severe

humanitarian hardships, including food insecurity and rising health-related problems, including high levels of malnutrition, among the Palestinian people, especially children, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing grave concern at the deaths of and injuries caused to civilians, including children, women and peaceful demonstrators, and emphasizing that the Palestinian civilian population must be protected in accordance with international humanitarian law,

Emphasizing the importance of the safety and well-being of all civilians, and calling for the cessation of all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, and all firing of rockets,

Expressing deep concern that thousands of Palestinians, including many children and women, continue to be held in Israeli prisons or detention centres under harsh conditions, including unhygienic conditions, solitary confinement, excessive use of administrative detention, including of children, lack of proper medical care and widespread medical neglect, including for ill prisoners, with the risk of fatal consequences, and denial of family visits and of due process, that impair their well-being, and expressing deep concern also about any ill-treatment and harassment of Palestinian prisoners and detainees and all reports of torture,

Conscious of the urgent need for the reconstruction and development of the economic and social infrastructure of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as the urgent need to address the humanitarian crisis facing the Palestinian people, including by ensuring the unimpeded provision of humanitarian assistance and the sustained and regular flow of persons and goods into and out of the Gaza Strip,

Recognizing the efforts being undertaken by the Palestinian Government, with international support, to reform, develop and strengthen its institutions and infrastructure, emphasizing the need to preserve and further develop Palestinian institutions and infrastructure, despite the obstacles presented by the ongoing Israeli occupation, and commending in this regard the ongoing efforts to develop the institutions of an independent Palestinian State, including through the implementation of the Palestinian National Policy Agenda: National Priorities, Policies and Policy Interventions (2017–2022),

Expressing concern about the risks posed to the significant achievements made, as confirmed by the positive assessments made by international institutions regarding readiness for statehood, including by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations and the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians, owing to the negative impact of ongoing instability and the financial crisis being faced by the Palestinian Government and the continued absence of a credible political horizon,

Commending, in that regard, the important work being done by the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the donor community in support of the economic and social development of the Palestinian people in line with their national development and State-building plan, as well as the vital assistance being provided in the humanitarian field,

Affirming the need to support the Palestinian Government of national consensus in its assumption of full government responsibilities in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in all fields, as well as through its presence at Gaza's crossing points, and Palestinian national reconciliation, and emphasizing the need for the respect and preservation of the territorial integrity and unity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Calling upon both parties to fulfil their obligations under the road map in cooperation with the Quartet,

Aware that development and fostering healthy economic, social and environmental conditions are difficult under occupation and best promoted in circumstances of peace and stability,

1. *Calls for* the full opening of the border crossings of the Gaza Strip, in line with Security Council resolution 1860 (2009) to ensure humanitarian access as well as the sustained and regular flow of persons and goods and the lifting of all movement restrictions imposed on the Palestinian people, including those restrictions arising from ongoing Israeli military operations and the multilayered closure system, and for other urgent measures to be taken to alleviate the serious humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which is dire in the Gaza Strip, and also calls for compliance by Israel, the occupying Power, with all of its legal obligations under international humanitarian law and United Nations resolutions in that regard;

2. *Stresses* the need to preserve the territorial contiguity, unity and integrity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to guarantee the freedom of movement of persons and goods throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as to and from the outside world;

3. *Also stresses* the need to preserve and develop Palestinian national institutions and infrastructure for the provision of vital public services to the Palestinian civilian population and to contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights, including economic and social rights;

4. *Demands* that Israel comply with the Protocol on Economic Relations between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization signed in Paris on 29 April 1994;[9]

5. *Calls upon* Israel to restore and replace civilian properties, vital infrastructure, agricultural lands and government institutions that have been damaged or destroyed as a result of its military operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

6. *Reiterates* the call for the full implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access of 15 November 2005, particularly the urgent and uninterrupted reopening of all crossings into the Gaza Strip, which is crucial to ensuring the passage of foodstuffs and essential supplies, including construction materials and adequate fuel supplies, as well as to ensuring the unhindered access of the United Nations and related agencies and regular commercial flows necessary for economic recovery to and within the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and emphasizes the need for security for all civilian populations;

7. *Calls upon* all parties to respect the rules of international humanitarian law and to refrain from violence against the civilian population, in accordance with the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;[2]

8. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan to all their natural and economic resources, and calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, not to exploit, endanger or cause loss or depletion of those resources;

9. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its destruction of homes and properties, economic institutions and agricultural lands and orchards in the

[9] See A/49/180-S/1994/727, annex, entitled "Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area", annex IV.

Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan, and to prevent Israeli settlers from perpetrating such illegal activities;

10. *Also calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to end immediately its exploitation of natural resources, including water and mining resources, and to cease the dumping of all kinds of waste materials in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, which gravely threaten their natural resources, namely, the water, land and energy resources, and present a serious environmental hazard and health threat to the civilian populations, and also calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to remove all obstacles that obstruct the implementation of critical environmental projects, including the sewage treatment plants in the Gaza Strip, notably the provision of the electric power needed for the work of the northern Gaza emergency sewage treatment plant, and stresses in this regard the urgency of the reconstruction and development of water infrastructure, including the desalination facility project for the Gaza Strip;

11. *Calls for* the assistance necessary for the safe removal of all unexploded ordnance in the Gaza Strip, which endangers Palestinian lives and negatively impacts the environment, as well as reconstruction and development efforts, and welcomes the efforts exerted by the Mine Action Service of the United Nations to date;

12. *Reaffirms* that the construction and expansion of Israeli settlements and related infrastructure in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan, are illegal and constitute a major obstacle to economic and social development and to the achievement of peace, and calls for the full cessation of all settlement and settlement-related activity, including full cessation of all measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, legal status and character of the occupied territories, including in particular in and around occupied East Jerusalem, in compliance with relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2334 (2016), and international law, including the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War;

13. *Calls for* accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated by Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and recalls in this regard Security Council resolution 904 (1994) of 18 March 1994 and stresses the need for its implementation;

14. *Also calls for* urgent attention to the plight and the rights, in accordance with international law, of prisoners and detainees, and calls for efforts between the two sides for the further release of prisoners and detainees, and deplores the practice of withholding the bodies of those killed, and calls for the release of the bodies that have not yet been returned to their relatives, in line with international humanitarian law and human rights law, in order to ensure dignified closure in accordance with their religious beliefs and traditions;

15. *Reaffirms* that Israel's ongoing construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, is contrary to international law and is isolating East Jerusalem, fragmenting the West Bank and seriously debilitating the economic and social development of the Palestinian people, and calls in that regard for full compliance with the legal obligations mentioned in the 9 July 2004 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice[8] and in General Assembly resolution ES-10/15 and subsequent relevant resolutions;

16. *Calls upon* Israel to comply with the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and to facilitate visits of the Syrian citizens of the occupied Syrian Golan whose family members reside in their mother homeland, the Syrian Arab Republic, via the Qunaytirah entrance;

17. *Emphasizes* the importance of the work of United Nations organizations and agencies in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority;

18. *Welcomes and urges* further engagement by the Secretary-General and the United Nations Special Coordinator to assist, in cooperation with concerned partners, in the efforts to address urgent infrastructure, humanitarian and economic development needs, including through the implementation of projects endorsed by the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians;

19. *Expresses appreciation* to the Member States, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations that have provided and continue to provide economic and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people, which has helped to ameliorate their critical economic and social conditions, and urges the continued provision of assistance commensurate with increased socioeconomic and humanitarian needs and in cooperation with official Palestinian institutions and consistent with the Palestinian National Development Plan;

20. *Reiterates* the importance of and need for increased and renewed international efforts on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 425 (1978), 1397 (2002), 1515 (2003), 1544 (2004), 1850 (2008) and 2334 (2016), and the Madrid Conference, the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative[5] and the Quartet road map,[6] as well as compliance with the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, in order to pave the way for the realization of the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, based on the pre-1967 borders, and the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to continue to include in the report of the United Nations Special Coordinator an update on the living conditions of the Palestinian people, in collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies;

22. *Decides* to include the item entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan" in the agenda of its 2019 session.

50th plenary meeting
24 July 2018

United Nations E/RES/2018/21

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Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 24 July 2018

[*on the recommendation of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (E/2018/15/Add.1)*]

2018/21. Admission of French Guiana as an associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of resolution 726 (XXXVII) of 11 May 2018 of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, by which the Commission decided that French Guiana should be granted associate membership in the Commission,

Approves the granting to French Guiana of associate membership in the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

51st plenary meeting
24 July 2018

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Economic and Social Council

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Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 24 July 2018

[*on the recommendation of the Economic Commission for Africa (E/2018/15/Add.1)*]

2018/22. African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of resolution 956 (LI) of 15 May 2018 of the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, by which the Conference endorsed the updated statute of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning,

Endorses the updated statute of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, as set out in the annex to the present resolution.

51st plenary meeting
24 July 2018

Annex

Statute of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

Article I
Purpose and functions of the Institute

1. The primary purpose of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning shall be the specialist training of the officials of those services and institutions in Africa responsible for economic policy design and management, and development planning, monitoring and evaluation. Such training shall include appropriate supportive research activities. The Institute shall also organize workshops, seminars and policy dialogues of varied duration on practical problems of national, regional and international development pertinent to its training mandate and the needs of African Governments.

2. The four core functions of the Institute shall be:

(a) To provide at its headquarters and at any other location in Africa training courses, encompassing short and postgraduate programmes, of varying duration on

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various aspects of economic policy design and management, and development planning, monitoring and evaluation;

(b) To organize in African countries, in cooperation with the appropriate national services, subregional and regional bodies and international specialized agencies, seminars and policy dialogues of varying duration on practical problems relating to national and continental economic management, development and planning;

(c) To provide advisory services at the request of Governments, doing so in close concert and collaboration with the relevant programme divisions of the Economic Commission for Africa, and insofar as its training programme allows;

(d) To establish and maintain documentation which will be made available throughout Africa in hard-copy and electronic formats to researchers, national institutions and subregional and regional organizations working in the field of economic planning and development.

3. In undertaking these four core functions, the Institute should take into account the paramount importance of promoting and safeguarding the economic independence of African countries.

Article II
Site of the Institute

1. The headquarters of the Institute shall be situated in Dakar, Senegal.

2. The host Government shall provide, in agreement with the United Nations, adequate premises, facilities and services as required for the efficient operation of the Institute.

Article III
Status and organization of the Institute

1. The Institute is and shall operate as a subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Africa.

2. The Institute shall have its own governing council and budget. It shall be subject to the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations[1] and the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations,[2] except as may be otherwise provided for by the General Assembly. It shall also be subject to all other administrative issuances of the Secretary-General, except as may be otherwise decided by him or her.

3. In addition, there shall be a technical advisory committee, a Director and supporting staff.

Article IV
Governing Council

1. The Governing Council shall be the prime oversight and decision-making organ of the Institute, and shall act to give effect to the broad directions established for the work of the Institute by the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

[1] ST/SGB/2013/4.
[2] ST/SGB/2017/1 and ST/SGB/2017/1/Corr.1.

2. The Governing Council shall be composed as follows:

(a) The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, who shall be the Chair of the Governing Council;

(b) Ten representatives of African Governments, two each from the five subregions of the continent (Central Africa, East Africa, North Africa, Southern Africa and West Africa);

(c) One representative of the Government of Senegal as host country;

(d) One representative of the African Union Commission;

(e) The Director of the Institute in an ex-officio capacity, who serves as the Secretary of the Governing Council.

3. The 10 members of the Governing Council who serve as representatives of African Governments shall be appointed by the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development on the basis of equal representation of the five subregions of the African continent.

4. The 10 members of the Governing Council who serve as representatives of African Governments shall serve on a voluntary basis. Once the members are appointed, membership shall not be transferable or delegated except in circumstances envisaged under paragraph 7 of the present article.

5. The member of the Governing Council designated by the African Union Commission shall be recommended by the Chairperson of the Commission from among the elected officials of the Commission for appointment by the Conference.

6. All members appointed by the Conference from the five subregions of the African continent and the member appointed on the recommendation of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission shall serve for a period of three years and shall be eligible for reappointment for one additional term only.

7. Membership shall be based on the principle of continuity. When an African Government wishes to change its representative before the end of the term, the proposed change shall be communicated to the Chair of the Conference and the Chair of the Governing Council.

8. The Governing Council shall:

(a) Adopt general principles and policies governing the operations of the Institute, including the general conditions of admission to the Institute's programmes;

(b) Review and approve the annual work programme and budget of the Institute;

(c) Approve the courses offered by the Institute and the requirements for admission to them on the advice of the Technical Advisory Committee and the Director;

(d) Contribute to the determination of the type and nature of the certificates to be awarded at the end of the training courses offered by the Institute;

(e) Examine and approve the Director's annual report on the work and progress of the Institute, including the budgetary and financial report for the preceding year;

(f) Present an annual report on the work of the Institute, including a complete audited report in respect of all incomes and expenditures, to the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development at its annual session;

(g) Oversee the general administration of the Institute and make such recommendations as it may deem appropriate;

(h) Constitute a Technical Advisory Committee of 10 members to work with it and the Director of the Institute on the quality and relevance of programmes.

9. The Governing Council shall hold two ordinary sessions every year to adopt the budget and programme activities, review the management report and statement of accounts, approve the development of new programmes and ensure the good administration of the Institute. It may hold an extraordinary session at the request of the Chair or one third of its members. The Governing Council shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

Article V
Technical Advisory Committee

1. The Technical Advisory Committee shall be composed of:

(a) Ten representatives of African Governments, two each from the five subregions of the continent, as provided for in article IV, paragraph 2 (b);

(b) The Director of Economic Affairs at the African Union Commission;

(c) The Director of the Institute.

2. Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Governing Council on the recommendation of the Chair of the Governing Council and shall normally be requested to serve for at least three years at a time.

3. Members shall be appointed on a voluntary basis, in cognizance of their individual commitment and professional competences, and with regard to their experience in affairs connected with the work of the Institute.

4. The Director shall be the Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee.

5. The Technical Advisory Committee shall be responsible for giving technical advice with regard to the design of the training and related programmes and activities of the Institute. It shall do so with an eye to quality, relevance, timeliness, impact and sustainability.

6. The Technical Advisory Committee shall be convened at least once a year by its Chair. At its meeting, it shall formulate recommendations to be submitted to the Governing Council on the current and future work programme of the Institute. It shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

Article VI
Chair of the Governing Council

The Chair of the Council shall:

(a) Convene the Governing Council and propose its agenda;

(b) By delegation of authority from the Secretary-General, appoint the Director and other staff of the Institute;

(c) With the approval of the Governing Council, solicit and receive support for the work of the Institute from specialized agencies of the United Nations, intergovernmental agencies, African Governments, non-governmental organizations and other sources.

Article VII
Director

1. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, through delegation of authority from the Secretary-General, shall appoint the Director of the Institute in accordance with the relevant United Nations rules and regulations. A search and selection committee established by the Chair of the Governing Council in consultation with the members shall propose suitable candidates for consideration.

2. The initial appointment of the Director shall be for three years, renewable for succeeding periods of three years, each subject to a satisfactory evaluation of the performance of the incumbent in accordance with established United Nations rules and procedures.

3. The Director will be assisted by professional and general support staff appointed in accordance with the rules and procedures governing United Nations staff appointments.

4. The Director shall have the responsibility for the organization, direction and administration of the Institute. In accordance with the policies laid down by the Governing Council, the Director shall:

(a) Submit the programme and budget of the Institute to the Governing Council for approval;

(b) Carry out programmes and effect disbursements as provided for in the budget through which funds have been allocated;

(c) Submit annual reports on the activities of the Institute to the Governing Council, together with a complete report on revenue and expenditure for the preceding period;

(d) Submit the names of senior personnel for approval and appointment by the Secretary-General or the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, depending on the level of the posts to be encumbered;

(e) Select and appoint personnel of the Institute other than those referred to in subparagraph (d) above, after consultation with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa;

(f) Make the necessary arrangements with other national and international organizations for the use of the services offered by the Institute, it being understood that arrangements with national organizations will be made with the approval of the Governments concerned.

Article VIII
Cooperation with the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa

The secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa shall, within the limits of its resources, assist the Institute in every possible way in order to facilitate its work. In particular, from time to time it shall provide the Institute with experienced staff to give lectures, assist in supervising research within the Institute's postgraduate training programmes and participate in workshops, seminars and policy dialogue.

Article IX
Financial resources and rules governing the financial management of the Institute

The Institute shall derive its finances from contributions made by African Governments and by the United Nations. The Institute may derive further resources in cash or in kind from the United Nations, its specialized agencies, other

governmental organizations and institutions, and Governments and non-governmental organizations. Acceptance by the Institute of offers of such further assistance shall, in every case, be subject to the decision of the Chair of the Governing Council, in consultation with the Director of the Institute, in accordance with the basic aims of the Institute and the relevant provisions of the rules governing the financial management of the Institute. The Chair of the Governing Council shall report on the matter to the Council at its next session.

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Agenda item 15

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 24 July 2018

[*on the recommendation of the Economic Commission for Africa (E/2018/15/Add.1)*]

2018/23. New strategic directions of the Economic Commission for Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of resolution 959 (LI) of 15 May 2018, in which the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development considered the new strategic directions of the Commission, as set out in the note by the Executive Secretary of the Commission entitled "New strategic directions of the Economic Commission for Africa: putting ideas into action for an empowered and transformed Africa",[1] and adopted the revised strategic framework and biennial programme plan for the period 2018–2019 for programme 15,[2]

Endorses the new strategic directions of the Economic Commission for Africa as set out in the note by the Executive Secretary of the Commission entitled "New strategic directions of the Economic Commission for Africa: putting ideas into action for an empowered and transformed Africa", which is annexed to the present resolution.

51st plenary meeting
24 July 2018

Annex

New strategic directions of the Economic Commission for Africa: putting ideas into action for an empowered and transformed Africa

A. Background

1. The year 2018 marks the sixtieth anniversary of the establishment of the Economic Commission for Africa. The occasion presents an opportunity to reflect on the contribution of the Commission, as a key player on the African institutional

[1] E/ECA/COE/37/14/Rev.1.
[2] E/ECA/COE/37/4/Rev.1.

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landscape, to the task of tackling the continent's development challenges. Over the past 60 years there have been substantial advances in addressing development challenges and as such priorities are shifting and new challenges are emerging for the continent. The anniversary of the Commission – a diamond jubilee – also offers an opportunity to take stock of the Commission's achievements and reposition itself to respond to the new and emerging challenges and continental priorities as well as aspirations of continental institutions and member States. The Secretary-General, in addition, is making collaboration with the African Union a priority, as well as the need to link development priorities with issues of peace and security. This requires a rethink of the positioning of the Commission.

2. Realigning the activities of the Commission with the demands of the member States is an essential element of its success and relevance. In pursuit of its mandate, the Commission has periodically scanned the development environment and has instituted a range of organizational transformations and renewals to position itself to ensure that it remains relevant to the needs and aspirations of its member States and can respond to emerging needs and challenges. The last restructuring exercise, undertaken in 2013, refocused the programmes of the Commission to make them more responsive to the transformative agenda of Africa. Since 2013, however, there have been significant developments at the global and regional levels that warrant further reforms by the Commission to ensure that it can effectively implement its mandate and respond to the evolving needs of its member States. The new reform is proposed with this as the backdrop.

B. Rationale for strategic repositioning of the Commission

3. A decade after the global financial and economic crisis, Africa finds itself in a new macroeconomic environment. Countries that were attracting huge volumes of foreign direct investments are no longer doing so. Oil-rich African countries that benefited from rising oil prices have witnessed serious economic downturns. This macroeconomic environment is being further strained by shifts in the domestic policies of emerging economies such as China, which are rebalancing their sources of growth. African economic growth recovered in 2017 but the rate of growth is still far below the double-digit growth needed for structural transformation, poverty reduction and increased prosperity as envisioned in Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.[3]

4. The current patterns and quality of growth in the region are leaving large segments of the population trapped in poverty and vulnerability. The deep and persistent inequalities across the continent have economic, social and political consequences. In the long run, these elements run the risk of undermining economic growth, productivity and the development of markets and could create conditions for open conflict and social unrest, as the recent experience of some African countries, in particular those in North Africa, has shown with the Arab Spring. Increasingly, there is consensus regarding the urgent need to ensure that growth is accelerated, sustainable and inclusive.

5. In order for Africa to grow and evolve, it is imperative that it transform structurally and diversify its economies. The current merchandise export structure, dominated by raw and unprocessed commodities, is not conducive to the envisaged level of development. African countries must diversify their sources of growth to reduce the vulnerability of their economies to internal and external shocks.

6. If Africa is to attain the desired outcomes of both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, a major change in the understanding, treatment and creation of a growth-

[3] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

enhancing macroeconomic environment is required. This change must look at the interface with development beyond the narrow focus on stabilization and on growth and be conceived in an integrated multisectoral perspective.

7. Africa must strengthen its own resources to tackle the macroeconomic issues that are undermining more inclusive and sustainable growth. The continent's ability to deal with new and emerging challenges is predicated on its ability to stabilize and grow its economies, primarily by mobilizing its own resources. To meet this challenge, African Governments need to build robust governance systems to support effective public sector management, to mobilize domestic resources, to combat illicit financial flows, to reform tax policies, and build robust formal private sector actors.

8. If African countries are to thrive in the constantly changing and dynamic global environment, it is critical that they have a robust governance system in which the authority of the State is perceived as legitimate and there is predictability about how agents are expected to act. The presence of such a governance system would also make Africa an attractive continent in which people are happy to live, work and invest.

9. The role of the private sector in financing Africa's development will continue to grow. The private sector can provide innovative and efficient ways of delivering infrastructure and other solutions for the continent. Most important, by mobilizing private sector finance, Africa can raise the trillions of dollars needed to fast-track its development, by diversifying the economy and improving competitiveness. This will require the development of robust capital markets and the creation of an environment conducive to private sector development, in particular in the areas of land, agriculture, energy, services and other infrastructure sectors. By leveraging the private sector, Africa can shift the production frontier for both goods and services, create sustainable economies, generate additional jobs and reap the continent's demographic dividend.

10. Poverty and inequality, however measured, remain very high in most parts of the continent. Accelerating the pace of poverty reduction and narrowing the persistent inequalities across the continent will contribute to social and political stability, economic growth, higher levels of productivity and improved living standards. Increasingly, there is an urgent need to ensure that public policies in Africa are more inclusive and respond to the needs of the vulnerable, including young people and women.

11. The commitment of African Governments to the regional integration agenda and, more broadly, to accelerated economic integration through, among other measures, the creation of the African Continental Free Trade Area and the Action Plan for Boosting Intra-African Trade, is at a scale sufficient to attract the private sector. These initiatives are complemented by other continental flagship programmes and strategies, including the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme, the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, the Action Plan for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa and the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa. Together these provide critical frameworks to attract and leverage private sector investment, optimize economic production and close the productivity gaps in African economies.

12. Climate change, environment and natural resources management are critical leverage points for the continent for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. Attainment of many of the Goals is directly or indirectly linked to the sustainable management of natural resources for healthy ecosystems, healthy economies and healthy societies. Africa is faced with serious challenges posed by climate change to the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Africa must effectively integrate mitigation and adaptation to climate change into development policy planning processes. This is imperative to reduce vulnerability and

strengthen resilience to impacts. Moving forward with the implementation of the intended nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement [4] would enable African countries to reduce their future emissions and to contribute to global collective efforts to tackle the effects of climate change. By harnessing natural resource endowments, new technologies and infrastructure as a means of creating wealth, reversing resource depletion for Africa's development and as a conduit towards diversifying its economies, African countries also need to pursue policy reforms to foster a green economy while contributing to balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

13. Data and statistics are central to the development process. There is consensus on the development aspirations that should be pursued by Africa, as captured in the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. In implementing and monitoring the two integrated agendas, there is need for an effective data policy regime and architecture to support the process. An African data revolution that constitutes the lifeblood of policymaking, planning and follow-up, and review of the two agendas will require resources and strengthened capacities for data collection, storage, access and analysis grounded in robust statistical systems.

14. The contribution of the Commission to the task of carrying forward the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 is centred on the three core facets of the Commission, namely, its convening function, its function as a think tank and its operational function, as articulated below:

(a) *Convening function*: providing dedicated regional intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder platforms with strong ownership by member States, regional bodies and development banks that result in agreed development policy frameworks, standards and action plans and that reinforce multilateralism at the regional and subregional levels;

(b) *Think-tank function*: conducting multisectoral research and analyses that nurture the integration of the three pillars of sustainable development and promote peer learning, innovative thinking and the advocacy of public policies, while fostering intersectoral linkages and synergies;

(c) *Operational function*: provision of policy advice at the country level through direct demand-based support to member States in areas related to its normative and analytical work and in collaboration with the United Nations system at the country level.

C. Review process

15. Based on the foregoing analysis, and with due consideration for the development context shaping the region and the Commission's key mandates, the Commission, under the leadership of its new Executive Secretary, embarked upon a process of reflection, consultation and forward thinking in September 2017. To that end, several strategic reviews have been undertaken with a view to reorienting the Commission to effectively support implementation of and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[5] Agenda 2063, the new United Nations-African Union framework for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda and the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security.

16. A series of consultations have also been conducted with stakeholders, including Heads of State and Government, ministers of finance and planning, ministers for foreign affairs, African ambassadors in Addis Ababa, partner organizations, including

[4] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

[5] General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

the African Union and the African Development Bank, bilateral partners and Commission staff members. The outcome of the process of reflection and consultations pointed to the need to reorient the strategic direction of the Commission with a view to taking advantage of opportunities, addressing the development challenges faced by Africa, responding to the needs of member States and effectively implementing the mandates of the Commission.

D. Putting ideas into action for an empowered and transformed Africa

17. The emerging vision of the Commission is framed around delivering ideas and actions for an empowered, inclusive and transformed Africa and is informed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 of the African Union. The three core facets of the Commission are its function as a think tank, its convening function and its operational function.

18. The overall objective of the Commission is to support the continent to effectively confront one of its central challenges: jobs creation. With more than half the jobs on the continent in the informal sector, that challenge has particular significance in fiscal terms and in terms of levels of poverty.

19. To deliver on its vision, the Commission will concentrate on five strategic directions:

(a) Advancing the position of the Commission as a premier knowledge institution by strengthening the knowledge profile of the staff;

(b) Developing macroeconomic and structural policy options to accelerate economic diversification and job creation;

(c) Designing and implementing innovative financing models for infrastructure and human, physical and social assets for transforming Africa;

(d) Contributing solutions to regional and transboundary challenges, with a focus on peace, security and social inclusion as an important development nexus;

(e) Advocating Africa's position at the global level and developing regional responses as a contribution to global governance issues.

20. The strategic directions will be implemented through the divisions of the Commission on the basis of its programmes. In its work, the Commission plans to move beyond merely focusing on the public sector, but actively to bring into its working modalities and efforts ideas and actions designed to deepen and grow the private sector, in particular the domestic private sector. This would be achieved by harnessing the private sector as the engine for driving production and productivity growth, jobs, and also as a provider of alternative means of financing development. The Commission will therefore deepen its collaboration with the private sector in support of policies on the appropriate enabling environment for that sector.

21. The Commission will also work with member States in both the normative and practical aspects of State-building through robust governance systems, which should include focusing more on issues of vulnerability, risks and capability in conflict and post-conflict countries with the aim of building their resilience and thereby preventing further crises.

22. In the light of the above aspirations, the subprogrammes of the Commission will be accordingly recalibrated, taking due account of the Commission's comparative advantages and programmatic priorities. The overall programme of work of the Commission, the tool for implementing the strategic directions, will therefore be organized around the following nine interdependent and complementary subprogrammes:

(a) *Macroeconomics and governance*. This subprogramme will be broadened to address economic governance matters as a critical aspect of economic development

and is aimed at supporting African member States in their efforts to accelerate economic transformation and inclusive development;

(b) *Regional integration and trade*. This subprogramme will focus on the central role of achieving effective regional cooperation and economic integration among member States by supporting efforts to deepen regional markets, boost intra-African trade, global trade, accelerate industrialization and tackle the challenges of structural transformation;

(c) *Private sector development and finance*. A successful private sector remains the main means of job creation, the biggest challenge of all Commission member States. The objective of this new subprogramme is to support member States in their endeavour to achieve accelerated job creation, sustained economic growth and transformation through leveraging the role and resources of the private sector with an emphasis on increasing private sector investment in agriculture and agribusiness, infrastructure, energy and services, promoting innovative financing solutions, developing capital markets, attracting investment and improving the business-enabling environment;

(d) *Data and statistics*. This subprogramme will continue its work on improving the production, dissemination and use of high-quality and comparable data and statistics in Africa to support evidence-based policymaking, planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting under the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The work of the subprogramme will also support countries in adopting new data technologies such as big data and innovative biometric techniques to help to accelerate decision-making on and measurement of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063;

(e) *Climate change, environment and natural resource management*. This subprogramme will play a vital role in supporting the efficient management of the continent's natural resource endowments, reducing the negative impacts of climate change by moving towards green transitions and climate-resilient development, and harnessing new technologies in the context of sustainable development;

(f) *Gender equality and women's empowerment*. This subprogramme will address emerging issues that have impacts on African women and girls and will also promote and support member States in their work to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment;

(g) *Subregional activities for development*. This subprogramme will be delivered through the five subregional offices covering Central, East, West, North and Southern Africa, whose selected thematic areas of specialization will equip them to tackle more effectively the development challenges faced by member States in their respective subregions;

(h) *Economic development and planning*. This subprogramme will be strengthened to improve public sector management and development planning in support of the structural transformation of member States;

(i) *Poverty, inequality and social policy*. The focus of this subprogramme will be sharpened to contribute to achieving inclusive and equitable sustainable human and social development in Africa.

23. The modalities for implementation will be aligned with the role of the Commission as a policy think tank engaged in multisectoral policy research and analysis with a view to harnessing the three pillars of sustainable development; as a convenor of intergovernmental platforms and forums such as the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, for the exchange of solutions, promotion of peer learning and articulation of a common African voice at the global level in support of

the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 of the African Union; and as a provider of capacity development services, which include supporting member States in their efforts to comply with international agreements, treaties, norms and standards, through policy advocacy, consensus-building, technical support, policy advisory services and training measures.

24. The five subregional offices of the Commission will specialize in selected thematic areas relevant to their subregions and based on the demand of member States to ensure a more effective approach to priority issues of concern and development challenges faced by member States in their respective subregions. The capacity and resources of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning will be further strengthened in order to provide the necessary training and policy support for the implementation by member States of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

E. Programme-related changes

25. The following programme-related changes will be instituted:

(a) *Subprogramme 1*. The previous focus on macroeconomic policy is to be broadened to include economic governance matters and support to the African Peer Review Mechanism, which was previously under the capacity development subprogramme. The finance and private sector work previously carried out under this subprogramme is now moved to the new private sector development and finance subprogramme;

(b) *Subprogramme 2*. Thematic areas such as infrastructure, food security and agriculture, and land governance are consolidated within the private sector development and finance subprogramme, while support to the New Partnership for Africa's Development,[6] which was previously under the capacity development subprogramme, is now added to the subprogramme portfolio;

(c) *Subprogramme 3*. A new subprogramme 3 on private sector development and finance is introduced. The objective of this new subprogramme is to support member States in achieving accelerated job creation, sustained economic growth and transformation by leveraging the role and resources of the private sector with an emphasis on increasing private sector investment in agriculture and agribusiness, infrastructure, energy and services, promoting innovative financing solutions, developing capital markets, attracting investment and improving the business-enabling environment;

(d) *Subprogramme 4*. The title of the subprogramme is changed to "data and statistics" while its scope remains unchanged;

(e) *Subprogramme 5*. The title of the previous subprogramme 3 is changed from "innovations, technologies and management of Africa's natural resources" to "climate change, environment and natural resource management" and the subprogramme is repositioned as subprogramme 5. The focus on innovations and technologies as facilitators of development will be recalibrated to support all programmatic areas. The previous capacity development subprogramme 5 is no longer a stand-alone subprogramme. The same functions were also being carried out by all other subprogrammes. The capacity development work of the Commission will be substantively mainstreamed as a core function across all subprogrammes, for efficiency, better ownership, and improving the capacity of the Commission to deliver knowledge through policy dialogue, advisory services and technical assistance under a unique vehicle;

[6] A/57/304, annex.

(f) *Subprogramme 6*. The title "gender and women in development" is slightly modified to respond to shifting priorities as "gender equality and women's empowerment" while the scope of the subprogramme remains unchanged;

(g) *Subprogramme 7*. The five components of subprogramme 7 on subregional activities for development will be enhanced to cover selected thematic areas in line with subregional priorities of member States and competencies of the Commission;

(h) *Subprogramme 8*. The subprogramme title "development planning and administration" is slightly modified as "economic development and planning" while the scope of the subprogramme remains unchanged;

(i) *Subprogramme 9*. The subprogramme on social development policy will be augmented and will cover social policy as previously, but will also include a special focus on poverty and inequality.

F. Conclusion and way forward

26. The repositioning of the Commission is being undertaken in response to changing global and regional dynamics, including the new macroeconomic environment in Africa, global and continental development frameworks and United Nations reforms. The proposed strategic directions and programmatic priorities laid out in the present note are the outcome of extensive consultations with a broad array of stakeholders, including the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, the African Union Commission and the private sector, among others.

27. The implementation of the proposals will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the Economic Commission for Africa in serving the rest of the United Nations family, member States and regional institutions. It will also enable the Commission to fully align with the Secretary General's reforms of the Secretariat and the Secretary-General's emphasis on collaboration with the United Nations. It should enable the Commission to align with and serve the continent and member States more expeditiously by leveraging more effectively internal synergies and by putting ideas into action for an empowered and transformed Africa.

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Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 24 July 2018

[*on the recommendation of the Economic Commission for Africa (E/2018/15/Add.1)*]

2018/24. Venue of the fifty-second session of the Economic Commission for Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of decision A (LI) of 15 May 2018 adopted by the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, by which the Conference decided to hold its fifty-second session in Morocco in 2019,

Endorses the decision of the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to hold its fifty-second session in Morocco in 2019.

51st plenary meeting
24 July 2018

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United Nations E/RES/2018/25

Economic and Social Council

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2018 session
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Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 24 July 2018

[*on the recommendation of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (E/2018/15/Add.1)*]

2018/25. Transition of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture to an intergovernmental organization outside the United Nations system

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the adoption by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its seventy-fourth session, held in Bangkok from 11 to 16 May 2018, of resolution 74/5 of 16 May 2018, in which the Commission, inter alia, noted with appreciation the announcement by the Government of Indonesia that it would lead and support the transition of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture to a new intergovernmental organization outside the United Nations system, as well as the offer of other members of the Governing Council of the Centre to join Indonesia to support the transition process,

Approves the transformation of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture from a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to a new organization outside the United Nations system, as set out in Commission resolution 74/5, which is annexed to the present resolution.

51st plenary meeting
24 July 2018

18-12630 (E) 080818

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Annex

Resolution 74/5

Transition of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture to an intergovernmental organization outside the United Nations system

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolutions 174 (XXXIII) of 29 April 1977 and 220 (XXXVIII) of 1 April 1982 on the establishment of the Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling also its resolutions 60/5 of 28 April 2004, 61/5 of 18 May 2005 and 65/4 of 29 April 2009 on the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling further the agreement between the Government of Indonesia and the United Nations regarding the hosting of the Centre, signed on 29 April 1981,

Recalling the support of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its sixty-sixth session, based on the recommendation of the Governing Council of the Centre, for the change of name from the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific to the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture,

Recalling also its resolution 72/1 of 19 May 2016 on the revision of the statute of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture,

Acknowledging that the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture has continued to contribute to the economic and social development of Asia-Pacific countries by acting as a regional knowledge and training hub for increasing agricultural production, enhancing food security and improving rural livelihood, as well as by providing a forum for policy dialogue, South-South technical cooperation and mutual learning in these areas,

Acknowledging with appreciation the financial resources and facilities that have been provided by the Government of Indonesia to the Centre, as well as the support of other members and associate members,

Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the Centre on its fourteenth session,[1] in which the Council comprehensively reviewed the Centre's administrative and financial status and considered options for the Centre's future and the continuation of its operations, including by enhancing ownership of the Centre by its members,

1. *Endorses* the report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture on its fourteenth session;[1]

2. *Notes with appreciation* the announcement by the Government of Indonesia that it would lead and support the transition of the Centre to a new intergovernmental organization outside the United Nations system, as well as the offer of other Governing Council members to join Indonesia to support the transition process;

3. *Encourages* all members and associate members to support the new organization in shaping its objectives, programmes and activities;

[1] ESCAP/74/13.

4. *Encourages* all members, associate members and other relevant stakeholders to support the new organization, including by, but not limited to, providing voluntary financial and in-kind contributions;

5. *Notes* the recommendation of the Governing Council of the Centre that the new organization may report to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on its activities;

6. *Also notes* the intention of the Government of Indonesia to establish a transition task force;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To take all the necessary administrative and legal steps, as appropriate, by 30 June 2018, to assist the Centre in transforming from a subsidiary body of the Commission to a new organization;

(b) To cooperate with the new organization, and to sustain the partnership, as appropriate;

(c) To take measures to transfer unspent voluntary funding to the new organization, subject to the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations;[2]

(d) To reflect the changes emanating from the above decisions in her report to the Commission at its seventy-fifth session, in 2019, on the midpoint review of the conference structure;

(e) To report to the Commission at its seventy-sixth session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution.

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[2] ST/SGB/2013/4.

United Nations E/RES/2018/26

Economic and Social Council

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2018 session
Agenda item 11 (b)

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 24 July 2018

[*on a proposal considered in plenary meeting (E/2018/L.26)*]

2018/26. Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[2] adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Programme of Action, and recalling also the Political Declaration adopted by the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, held in Antalya, Turkey, from 27 to 29 May 2016, and endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 70/294 of 25 July 2016,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action of overcoming the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[3] the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[4] the Paris Agreement,[5] the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030[6]

[1] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. I.
[2] Ibid., chap. II.
[3] General Assembly resolution 70/1.
[4] General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.
[5] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.
[6] General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

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and the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III),[7]

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 72/231 of 20 December 2017,

Recalling further its resolution 2017/28 of 25 July 2017 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004 and 67/221 of 21 December 2012 on a smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 72/279 of 31 May 2018 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and emphasizing the importance of its full and timely implementation,

Recognizing the synergies between the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020;[8]

2. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to further intensify their efforts to fully and effectively implement, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner, the commitments that have been made in the Istanbul Programme of Action[2] in its eight priority areas, namely, (a) productive capacity, (b) agriculture, food security and rural development, (c) trade, (d) commodities, (e) human and social development, (f) multiple crises and other emerging challenges, (g) mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building and (h) good governance at all levels;

3. *Invites* the private sector, civil society and foundations to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in their respective areas of competence in line with the national priorities of the least developed countries;

4. *Welcomes* the operationalization of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries and the inauguration of its headquarters in Gebze, Turkey, which signify the achievement of the first Sustainable Development Goal target, target 17.8, takes note with appreciation of the contributions that Turkey, Norway, the Sudan, Bangladesh and the Philippines have made, and invites Member States, as well as international organizations, foundations and the private sector, to provide voluntary financial contributions and technical assistance to the Technology Bank to ensure its effective operation;

5. *Reaffirms* that the least developed countries, as the most vulnerable group of countries, need enhanced global support to overcome the structural challenges they face in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[3] and in this regard calls upon the international community to prioritize and strengthen support from all sources to facilitate the coordinated implementation and coherent follow-up to and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action, the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development[4] in the least developed countries;

6. *Recognizes* that significant additional domestic public resources, including at the subnational level, supplemented by international assistance as

[7] General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex.
[8] A/73/80-E/2018/58.

appropriate, will be critical to realizing sustainable development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda acknowledge the centrality of domestic resource mobilization underscored by the principle of national ownership, also recognizes that, while the least developed countries have made considerable efforts to mobilize domestic resources and attract private investment, further progress is needed, and underlines the importance of strengthening domestic enabling environments, including the rule of law and combating corruption at all levels and in all its forms;

7. *Also recognizes* that private business activity, investment and innovation are major drivers of productivity, inclusive economic growth and job creation, and that private international capital flows, in particular foreign direct investment, along with a stable international financial system, are vital complements to national development efforts;

8. *Expresses its concern* that bilateral official development assistance (ODA) to the least developed countries remains far from the target set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, noting the reversal of the decline of ODA to the least developed countries in 2017 and expressing its appreciation to those few countries that have met or surpassed their commitments to 0.7 per cent of gross national income (GNI) for ODA to developing targets and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNI for ODA to the least developed countries, calls upon ODA providers to fulfil their respective ODA commitments to the least developed countries, and encourages ODA providers to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.2 per cent of GNI for ODA to the least developed countries, while reiterating that an important use of international public finance, including official development assistance, is to catalyse additional resource mobilization from other sources, public and private;

9. *Reaffirms* that the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls, in accordance with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[9] and the outcomes of relevant United Nations conferences and resolutions of the General Assembly, including through investing in the development of women and girls and promoting their economic and political participation and equal access to economic and productive resources and education, is of fundamental importance and has a multiplier effect for achieving sustained and inclusive economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development;

10. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 67/221, and reiterates the request of the Assembly to the Committee for Development Policy to monitor the development progress of graduated countries, in consultation with the Governments of those countries, on a yearly basis for a period of three years after graduation becomes effective, and triennially thereafter, as a complement to two triennial reviews of the list of least developed countries, and to include its findings in its annual report to the Economic and Social Council;

11. *Also recalls* the recognition in the Political Declaration of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020[10] of the importance of the reviews by the Committee for Development Policy of the graduation criteria for the least developed countries, and the recommendation in the Political Declaration that the reviews be comprehensive, taking into account all

[9] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[10] General Assembly resolution 70/294, annex.

aspects of the evolving international development context, including relevant agendas, and in this regard takes note of the decision of the Committee to implement a multi-year work programme for a comprehensive review of the least developed country criteria[11] and looks forward to its outcome;

12. *Reiterates* that wider recognition of least developed country status could stimulate and facilitate better integration of the Istanbul Programme of Action into development policies, and in this regard takes note of the survey conducted by the Committee for Development Policy to collect information on the recognition and application of the least developed country category by entities of the United Nations development system and the recommendations of the Committee;[12]

13. *Recalls* the decision contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that effective linkages will be made with the follow-up and review arrangements of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including on the least developed countries, underlines the importance of strong synergy in the implementation of the recently adopted agendas and the Istanbul Programme of Action at the national and subnational levels, and encourages coordination and coherence in the follow-up of their implementation;

14. *Expresses its serious concern* at the fact that the share of expenditure for operational activities for development of the United Nations system in the least developed countries is declining and reached 46 per cent of total expenditures at the country level in 2016, compared with more than 50 per cent until 2014,[8] urges the United Nations development system to continue to prioritize allocations to the least developed countries by developing operational guidelines, while reaffirming that the least developed countries, as the most vulnerable group of countries, need enhanced support to overcome structural challenges that they face in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and requests the United Nations development system to provide assistance to graduating countries in the formulation and implementation of their national transition strategies and to consider country-specific support for graduated countries for a fixed period of time and in a predictable manner;

15. *Invites*, in this regard, the United Nations development system to prioritize allocations to the least developed countries by developing operational guidelines with clear budget targets, as appropriate;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its 2019 session, under the sub-item entitled "Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020" of the item entitled "Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits", a progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action.

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[11] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2017, Supplement No. 13* (E/2017/33), chap. I, sect. A, para. 12.

[12] Ibid., para. 5.

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[*on a proposal considered in plenary meeting (E/2018/L.22)*]

2018/27. Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its twentieth session

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004 and 67/221 of 21 December 2012, both on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the category of least developed countries,

Recalling also that, in its resolution 59/209, the General Assembly decided that graduation from the least developed country category would become effective three years after the date on which the Assembly had taken note of the recommendation of the Committee for Development Policy to graduate a country from the category and that, during the three-year period, the country would remain on the list of least developed countries and maintain the advantages associated with membership on that list, and that, in its resolution 67/221, the Assembly decided to take note of the decisions of the Economic and Social Council regarding the graduation of countries from and the inclusion in the list of least developed countries at the first session of the Assembly following the adoption of such decisions by the Council,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, by which the Assembly endorsed the Istanbul Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[2] whose overarching goal is to overcome the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category, and, guided by that overarching goal, focuses the national policies of least developed countries and international support measures during the decade on the five specific objectives

[1] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. I.

[2] Ibid., chap. II.

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described in the Programme of Action, with the aim of enabling half the number of least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 69/15 of 14 November 2014, by which the Assembly endorsed the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, entitled "SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway",

Recalling also its resolutions 1998/46 of 31 July 1998, 2007/34 of 27 July 2007, 2013/20 of 24 July 2013, 2015/11 of 10 June 2015 and 2016/15 of 26 July 2016,

Reiterating its conviction that no country graduating from the least developed country category should have its development progress disrupted or reversed,

Bearing in mind the importance of maintaining stability in the criteria and in the application of the established procedures for inclusion in and graduation from the least developed country category so as to ensure the credibility of the process and, consequently, of the category of least developed countries, while giving due consideration to the specific challenges and vulnerabilities and the development needs of countries potentially graduating or being considered for graduation from the least developed country category,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its twentieth session;[3]

2. *Notes* the work done by the Committee on (a) leaving no one behind, in accordance with the theme of the high-level segment of the 2018 session of the Economic and Social Council, (b) the triennial review of the list of least developed countries, (c) monitoring the development progress of countries graduating and graduated from the list of least developed countries, (d) improved assistance for graduating least developed countries and (e) the voluntary national reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[4]

3. *Requests* the Committee, at its twenty-first session, to examine and make recommendations on the annual theme of the 2019 session of the Council;

4. *Also requests* the Committee to monitor the development progress of countries graduating and graduated from the category of least developed countries, in accordance with paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution 67/221;

5. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee that Bhutan be graduated from the list of least developed countries, notes that the Committee finds reasonable the request by Bhutan to align the effective graduation date with the end of the country's twelfth national development plan in 2023, and recommends that the General Assembly take note of that recommendation and the finding;

6. *Also endorses* the recommendation of the Committee that Solomon Islands be graduated from the list of least developed countries, and recommends that the General Assembly take note of that recommendation;

7. *Recalls* the recognition in the Political Declaration of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020[5] of the importance of the reviews by the Committee of the graduation criteria for the least developed countries, and the recommendation that the reviews be comprehensive, taking into account all aspects of the evolving international development context,

[3] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2018, Supplement No. 13* (E/2018/33).
[4] General Assembly resolution 70/1.
[5] General Assembly resolution 70/294, annex.

including relevant agendas, and in this regard takes note of the decision of the Committee to implement a multi-year work programme for a comprehensive review of the least developed country criteria, and looks forward to its outcome;

8. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the Committee that a category of countries facing extreme vulnerability to climate change and other environmental shocks be created, and decides not to endorse that recommendation;

9. *Also takes note* of the recommendation of the Committee that Kiribati be placed in a category of countries facing extreme vulnerability to climate change and other environmental shocks, and decides not to endorse that recommendation, and further takes note of the recommendation of the Committee that Kiribati be graduated from the list of least developed countries, and decides to defer the consideration of that recommendation to no later than 2021;

10. *Further takes note* of the recommendation of the Committee that Tuvalu be placed in a category of countries facing extreme vulnerability to climate change and other environmental shocks, and decides not to endorse that recommendation, and recalls the recommendation of the Committee that Tuvalu be graduated from the list of least developed countries, and decides to defer the consideration of that recommendation to no later than 2021;

11. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee that Sao Tome and Principe be graduated from the list of least developed countries, notes that the Committee finds reasonable the request by Sao Tome and Principe to postpone its effective graduation date to 2024, so as to enable it to enact necessary internal reforms and align its transition strategy with its national development plan, and recommends that the General Assembly take note of that recommendation and the finding;

12. *Notes* that, as part of the existing procedures, all least developed countries, including those not yet graduated, will be included in the 2021 triennial review of the least developed country category;

13. *Requests* the entities of the United Nations development system to provide assistance to graduating countries in the formulation and implementation of their national transition strategies and to consider country-specific support for graduated countries for a fixed period of time and in a predictable manner;

14. *Acknowledges with satisfaction* the contributions made by the Committee to the various aspects of the programme of work of the Council, reiterates its invitation for increased interaction between the Council and the Committee, and encourages the Chair and, as necessary, other members of the Committee to continue that practice, as specified in Council resolution 2011/20 of 27 July 2011, within existing resources and as appropriate.

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